

From: Cassella, Stefan (USAMD) [<mailto:Stefan.Cassella@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 2:06 PM
To: David L. Watt, Esq.
Subject: RE: Settlement Agreement





[Mr. Taylor did not give an interview to the press.](#)

Stef

Stefan D. Cassella
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Chief, Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section
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410 209-4986

From: David L. Watt, Esq. [<mailto:dwatt@dwattlaw.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:41 PM
To: Cassella, Stefan (USAMD)
Subject: RE: Settlement Agreement
Importance: High

Stef,

I think we can still wrap this up before you leave on your trip. My client is still troubled by the acknowledge language, since he believes that he is admitting that there was reasonable cause. In the meantime, I ve obtained the settlement in the Taylor Produce case (attached to this email), which is very similar to the Sowers  case, and there is no

language regarding the Taylors' acknowledgement that there was reasonable cause for the seizure. We would even be satisfied with the same WHEREAS clauses as those in the Taylor agreement. I have a hard time explaining to my client why he is being treated differently, especially where your initial concern was that the government agents not be liable for any claims for the seizure (which we have covered in paragraph 5).

I hate to see this carried over til Mid-June since my clients really need the funds for their farming operations. Please reconsider your position and see if we can to an agreement on this final point this afternoon.

Thanks,

Dave

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From: Cassella, Stefan (USAMD) [<mailto:Stefan.Cassella@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 12:37 PM
To: David L. Watt, Esq.
Subject: RE: Settlement Agreement

David,

Sorry we couldn't get this worked out before I have to leave on my trip. We're not quite there: Mr. Sowers doesn't have to admit that he did anything wrong, but he does have to acknowledge that there was a reasonable basis for the seizure.

I'll be gone until June 11 but then we'll go almost immediately into trial. It should be over by July 1, so we can pick it up then. In the meantime, I will not object to your withholding your claim until July. If Mr. Sowers should change his mind and agree to sign the last version of the letter I sent, we can get it filed right away.

Stef

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<Motion+for+Final+Order+of+Fft.pdf>

<Sowers+Signed+Order_05302012-1.pdf>